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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7041  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/20/2017  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [SA](#)  
SUBJECT: PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN NAYIF CALLS PRINCE BANDAR'S  
9/11 COMMENTS "IRRESPONSIBLE"

REF: RIYADH 02224

Classified By: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MICHAEL GFOELLER FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) A  
ND (D)

¶1. (S) On the evening of November 19, Prince Mohammed Bin Nayif (MbN), the Assistant Minister of Interior for Security Affairs, called the Charge d'Affaires to personally apologize for Prince Bandar's comments, in which he said that the USG could have prevented 9/11 if it had consulted with the Saudi authorities in a "credible way." MbN emphatically told the Charge that the Saudi Arabian Government (SAG) had possessed no information that might have prevented 9/11. He characterized Prince Bandar's statements as "irresponsible" and he promised the Charge that an incident like this would never happen again. He ended the brief call by saying, "You are our friends and we would never do anything to hurt our strong relationship."

¶2. (S) COMMENT: MbN's comments are similar to what Doctor Prince Turki Saud al-Kabeer, the Director of International Organizations and Political Affairs at the MFA, told the DCM on November 6 (reftel). It is apparent that Prince Bandar's comments have taken the SAG by surprise. MbN's call was probably also intended as a signal to the USG that strong counter terrorism cooperation will continue. END COMMENT.  
GFOELLER